Museum preserves Nebraska's rich history



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

An exhibit at the new State Historical Society Museum.

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Ag. PLACEMENT OFFICE - EAST CAMPUS Thurs., Nov. 3

PEACE CORPS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Daily Nebraskan is now accepting applications until 4 p.m. October 28 for Editor-in-Chief for spring semester, 1984.

The Editor-In-Chief formulates editorial policy, oversees newsroom operations, determines editorial page contents and reports to the Publication Board.

Applicants must have one year newspaper experience and be a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Applications can be obtained from Dan Shattil, Room 36, Nebreska Union.

Nebraskan

UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admissions of employment programs and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same. The Nebraska State Historical Society's new State Museum of History opened a few weeks ago and it's a doozy. The extensive remodeling of the former Eagle's Club has been expertly carried out and the building shows few, if any, growing pains from the make-over.

A tour through the four-story structure begins with brief introductory displays on its ground floor. Included are pieces ranging from Plains Indian arti-



Billy

facts (from various Nebraska digs) to a beautifully scruffy buckskin fur trader's jacket worn about 1860.

The second floor is called the Nebraska History Gallery. Displays dating back to ancient cave dwellers and reaching up to the 1971 Cornhusker football team are arranged chronologically (logically enough) in a meandering labyrinth throughout the floor. The subdued lighting is pleasant, but the area's arrangement can be somewhat confusing, as I overheard another viewer comment. Perhaps a few larger "landmark" displays would help to keep one's bearings and break up any monotony.

The second floor also contains specific displays on each of Nebraska's native Indian tribes as well as a display for nearly every epoch and era of this state's history. In the corner areas are "period" rooms, decorated with actual furnishings of respective time periods. These are always fun to experience, even if the glass walls boxing them in give each an eerie "Twilight Zone" quality.

The third floor of the museum contains a replica of a general store and special collections of such things as picture frames, dolls, art glass, beadwork, and the Walter J. Charney collection of firearms.

Featured in the museum's gallery area on this floor on the paintings of John P. Falter. Falter was born in Plattsmouth in 1910, and is known primarily for the 185 cover illustrations he created between 1943 and 1969 for the Saturday Evening Post. During the '60s and '70s, he painted more than 300 western art works. His technique ranged from a tight, precise approach similar to Andrew Wyeth's, to a more painterly application, such as in the beautiful and unfinished portrait of James Cagney.

Falter died in Philadelphia in 1982. With the aid of his widow, his studio has been re-created in the gallery. It's a good show, but a bit spotty in the overall quality of the works.

The museum is located at 131 Centennial Mall North, and is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The old state museum at 15th and R streets will continue to house the administrative offices, archives, library and photo lab.

Classified 472-1761

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announcements

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